

13th April 2010

To Whom It May Concern

I have been an assessor for the Green Loans Program since Oct 09. The Green Loans Program was a great initiative by our Federal Government, but in hindsight the implementation of the program was ill conceived.

I saw this program as the way the of the future, and a win win situation by helping householders to save money on energy costs, lowering greenhouse emissions and a kick start for the economy by being able to employ thousands of people in a growing industry.

I started doing assessments in Nov 09 with a company called Green Homes Express (they have since gone out of business). I wasn't happy with the way they conducted business so I handed in my resignation letter in January and left on the 5th Feb 2010. I decided to become an independent assessor.

My involvement with GLACO started in late January 2010. Neil Dodemaide the then principal of GLACO contacted me by email asking if I wanted to join GLACO.

Prior to this I had positive reports from GLACO assessors, so I decided to join GLACO based on the information and conditions I was given by Neil. It sounded safe & secure. But a few days after I signed on with GLACO Neil left and handed control to a person by the name of Trevor McTaggart. We now know lot of what was promised and expected was never delivered. (See attached files)

This Trevor McTaggart has a dubious past as a con man and has been mentioned in parliament previously for shady activities.

I paid my \$200 joining fee in late January and officially started GLACO assessments in February 09. The joining fee was supposed to be repaid to the assessor after they had completed 10 GLACO assessments. I did the minimum 10 assessments under the terms of their contract but never saw that \$200 again.

I called the call centre asking them what was the best way for me to get paid for my invoices and I was advised it may be easier and quicker to let GLACO submit the invoice on my behalf. That was a big mistake because that money is gone.

GLACO was paid approximately \$700,000 by DEWHA in February 09, instead of paying the assessors what they were owed that money simply disappeared. GLACO owes money to its 70 or so assessors, amounts range from \$200 - \$21,000. I'm personally owed \$3200 and I still consider myself lucky compared to some. Not only does this affect the livelihood of the assessors but their entire families as well.

The one and only reason I submitted my Feb invoices early is because I was under the impression by GLACO that I would be paid the 1st week of March. I received an email from GLACO asking to submit my invoices by a certain date so I could be paid in March. I did just that, and then in the first week of March I received another email saying that assessors had been paid. But no money turned up in my account. I then called GLACO and spoke to the person who handles invoicing. He told me that I would definitely be paid in April. We all know what happened next.

This is fraud and these people should be charged and convicted. We as assessors were lied to and misled right up to the very end. Even after voicing our concerns to DEWHA about this exact thing happening, we were left high and dry with no protection.

Assessors have been screwed over too many times by too many people & many are now in severe financial hardship thanks to DEWHA's lack of guidance, advice and protection from the predators out to rort the program. Other than the Green Loans call centre fiasco, no one from the Green Loans staff could give us any answers. Basically assessors were left to fend for themselves and do what they had to do to get work. This was the main reason companies like GLACO were able to flourish and allowed to take advantage of this to feather their own nests and make as much money from the assessors and the government as possible.

All assessors had to undergo a National Police Check, but this was a loophole the Booking centres were able to exploit because they were not required to undergo a police check of any kind. That's how the unscrupulous operators and a known conman were able to get their hands on hundreds of thousands of dollars of federal government money. Someone needs to be made accountable for this.

The very least DEWHA can do for the GLACO affected assessors now is to expedite payments for their March invoices as soon as possible. This would be of great help and a relief to many assessors who are facing financial ruin and it may prevent some assessors from losing their homes or having their cars repossessed.

Yours sincerely,